Remunerative price to farmers

4008. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers made a record production despite devasting floods and severe drought last year;

(b) whether the farmers incurred heavy losses owing to non-procurement of their produce at fixed prices in several parts of the country;

(c) whether Government are aware that the farmers were on the verge of starvation and some of them even committed suicide; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the steps being taken by Government to ensure remunerative price to the farmers for their produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Despite the fact that four States recorded excessive rainfall and 13 States/UTs recorded deficient rainfall during Monsoon, 2006 farmers brought significant increase particularly, in production of total food grains, oilseeds, cotton, jute and sugarcane during last year (2005-06) compared to the previous year.

(b) to (d) Food Corporation of India (FCI) and designated Central and State agencies used to procure agricultural produce from farmers at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) in order to offer remunerative prices and to check distress sale. With the amendment of the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act, the farmers now have more options to sell their produce to the prospective buyers at a higher price.

Incidence of farmers committing suicide have been reported in certain parts of the country and it has been matter of serious concern. State/U.T. Governments have reported various reasons like crop failure, indebtedness, drought, social and economic insecurity of farmers for the same. As per the information provided by the states, a statement showing cases of suicide by farmers in States is Annexed (See below).

Government have advised FCI, designated agencies and the State to Governments to open sufficient number of purchase centres and give wide publicity through print and audio-visual media, village fairs, panchayats,

Krishi Vigyan Kendras, thereby informing farmers about the MSP operations, location and facilities provided at the purchase centers. Further, special control rooms are set up by the FCI, State Governments and Ministry of Food & Public Distribution to monitor the support price operations.

Statement

Cases of Suicide by Farmers in States

(As on 31.03.2007)

SI. No	Name of the State	Period	No.(Based on the figures reported by State Govts.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2003-04	393
		2004-05	1126
		2005-06	378
		2006-07 (upto 31.03.2007)	150
2.	Karnataka	2003-04	708
		2004-05	271
		2005-06	152
		2006-07 (upto 20.03.2007)	243
3.	Maharashtra	2003	173
		2004	622
		2005	577
		2006	2329
		2007(uptoFeb.2007)	239
4.	Tamil Nadu	2000-2007 (upro March 07)	26
5.	Punjab	2003	13
		2004	11
		2005	6
6.	Kerala	2001 to 2006	841
		2007 (upto 31.01.2007)	13
7.	Gujarat	2003	3
		2004	7
		2005	7
		2006	1

The number of suicide reported by State Governments of Orissa, Goa, Chandigarh, Andaman & Nicobar, Sikkim and Delhi is nil.